

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original): An optical film: comprising  
an optical compensation layer (2) showing refractive index anisotropy satisfying a relationship of  $n_{x2} \doteq n_{y2} > n_{z2}$ ,  
when a direction where an in-plane refractive index gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as  $n_{x2}$ ,  $n_{y2}$  and  $n_{z2}$ , respectively,  
on one side of a base material film (1) in which each of refractive index differences represented with  $|n_{x1} - n_{y1}|$ ,  $|n_{x1} - n_{z1}|$  and  $|n_{z1} - n_{y1}|$  has values of 0.0006 or less, respectively,  
when a direction where a refractive index in a film plane gives maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as  $n_{x1}$ ,  $n_{y1}$ , and  $n_{z1}$  respectively.
2. (Original): The optical film according to Claim 1, wherein a thickness of the optical compensation layer (2) is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.
3. (Original): The optical film according to Claim 1, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is formed of a coating of an organic material.

4. (Original): The optical film according to Claim 1, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is a cholesteric liquid crystal layer.

5. (Original): A method for producing the optical film according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

coating a material to form an optical compensation layer (2) showing refractive index anisotropy satisfying a relationship of  $n_{x2} \neq n_{y2} > n_{z2}$ , when a direction where an in-plane refractive index gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as  $n_{x2}$ ,  $n_{y2}$  and  $n_{z2}$ , respectively, on one side of a base material film (1) in which each of refractive index differences represented with  $|n_{x1} - n_{y1}|$ ,  $|n_{x1} - n_{z1}|$ , and  $|n_{z1} - n_{y1}|$  has values of 0.0006 or less, respectively, when a direction where a refractive index in a film plane gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and when refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as  $n_{x1}$ ,  $n_{y1}$ , and  $n_{z1}$  respectively; and

orienting the optical compensation layer (2).

6. (Original): The method for producing the optical film according to Claim 5, wherein a thickness of the optical compensation layer (2) is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

7. (Original): The method for producing the optical film according to Claim 5, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is formed of a coating of an organic material.

8. (Original): The method for producing the optical film according to Claim 5, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is a cholesteric liquid crystal layer.

9. (Original): An optical film comprising an at least one layer of other optical element further laminated onto the optical film according to Claim 1.

10. (Original): The optical film according to Claim 9, wherein the other optical element is a polarizer, and the polarizer is laminated on a base material film (1) side.

11. (Original): An image display, wherein the optical film according to Claim 1 or Claim 9 is laminated thereon.

12. (Previously presented): The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is formed directly on the base material film (1).

13. (Previously presented): The optical film according to claim 12, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is coated on the base material film (1).

14. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is formed directly on the base material film (1).

15. (Previously presented): The optical film according to claim 10, wherein the polarizer is laminated directly on the base material film (1) side.

16. (Currently amended): The optical film according to claim ~~46~~ 15, wherein the optical compensation layer (2) is coated on the base material film (1).